

STATINTL

## Is Dodd Dead (Politically)?

There is nothing that the United States Senate dislikes more than investigating one of its own. But for the past two weeks, the Ethics Committee — more properly the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct — has been doing just that, looking into charges of misconduct leveled against Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, by Washington columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson.

By the middle of last week, the first phase of the investigation — dealing with Senator Dodd's relations with the Chicago public relations man Julius Klein, — was over. The committee had listened to a good deal of conflicting testimony. It heard former Dodd staff members — who had supplied Mr. Pearson and Mr. Anderson with information from the office files — accuse their one-time employer of being little more than a paid errand boy for Mr. Klein in his attempts to hang on to some West German clients. It heard Senator Dodd deny the charges in testimony that was sometimes vague. And it heard Mr. Klein contradict himself frequently.

According to the columnists and the former Dodd staff members, the Senator had gone to Germany in April, 1964, to intercede with various high German officials in Mr. Klein's behalf. The public relations man had lost \$200,000 worth of contracts with West German clients and seemed in danger of losing a \$150,000-a-year contract with another client.

### Mr. Klein Testifies

Senator Dodd declared that his primary purpose in going to Germany was to interrogate a former Soviet spy; that in his conversations with German officials, Mr. Klein's name arose only once, in a talk with former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, and that it was Mr. Adenauer who brought it up.

Mr. Klein told the committee last week that he had urged Senator Dodd to intercede for him, which he felt was his "perfect right." But Mr. Klein changed his story time and again under questioning as to what, if anything, had been said about the trip after Senator Dodd returned.

No evidence was forthcoming during the sessions as to whether, or how, Mr. Klein may have reprocated for the favors Senator Dodd did for him, but the general tenor of the testimony led most observers to believe that these initial sessions, while not seriously damaging to the Senator, did him no good either.

Next the committee investigation will turn to charges of various financial irregularities. The Connecticut Democrat has challenged the committee's authority to do this, but the committee has brushed this aside.

Last week it began to disclose evidence along this line, indicating Senator Dodd collected travel expenses for a trip to California in 1964 from both the Senate and a private organization; the Senator replied that one of the payments was for his wife's ticket. The committee will also begin to look into charges that the Senator made private use of proceeds from dinners designed to raise campaign funds for him.

One long-time Washington observer commented at week's end that while the committee may not recommend formal censure when the hearings are over, "My guess is that the censure will be apparent and that politically Dodd is dead."